

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Maintain Public Security-The list of unoccupied buildings that can be utilized as shelters will be updated every year by May 31st so all of the counties and municipalities will know what buildings may be used as shelters to safeguard Florida residents in an emergency.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation:

Pursuant to the "Capital Facilities Planning and Budgeting Act" of sections 216.015-216.016, F.S., the Department of Management Services (DMS) is required to take inventory of current facilities owned, leased, rented, or otherwise occupied by any agency of the state or judicial branch. ¹To fully comply with this requirement, DMS produces an annual report. This report is available online. ²Facilities not incorporated in this report include those of the State Board of Administration, Board of Regents, the Community College System, Water Management Districts, local school districts, private correctional facilities and any facilities with less than three thousand square feet in gross area. ³ There are several components to the annual inventory. One, the State Facility Inventory program, includes facility ownership, management responsibility, date assessed, assessor, location, occupancy, size, and other general data. Another component, the Lease Inventory Program, consists of a recording of *all* state leases and those facilities ownership, square footages, costs, beginning and ending dates, and other general data for these leases.

DMS, pursuant to s. 252.385(4) (b) and (c), F.S., is required to incorporate provisions into state agency lease agreements for the use of suitable leased public facilities as public hurricane evacuation shelters. The DMS is also required to consult with local and state emergency management agencies to assess DMS facilities and identify the extent to which each facility has public hurricane evacuation shelter space. ⁴

The Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management ("Division"), must prepare a state comprehensive emergency management plan that can be integrated into and coordinated with the emergency management plans and programs of the Federal Government as required in the "State Emergency Management Act" of sections 252.31-252.60, F.S. ⁵The plan must include a shelter component with specific planning provisions and promote shelter activity coordination between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. This component must include strategies to ensure adequate public shelter space is available in each region of the state; establish strategies for refuge-of-last-resort programs; include plans to assist local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and security personnel; provide for a post disaster communications system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines for operations, registration, inventory, power generation capability, information management, and staffing; and set forth policy guidance for sheltering people with special needs. ⁶The Division has integrated the State

¹ Section 216.015(3) (b), F.S.

² <http://fcn.state.fl.us/dms/dbc/mgt/inventory.html>

³ According to the Executive Summary of the 2005 Inventory Annual Report

⁴ Suitable leased public facilities include leased public facilities that are solely occupied by state agencies and have at least 2,000 square feet or net floor area in a single room or in a combination of rooms having a minimum of 400 square feet in each room. Section 252.385 (4) (b), F.S.

⁵ Section 252.35 (2) (a), F.S.

⁶ Section 252.35 (2) (a)2.,F.S.

Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (February 1, 2004 Edition) by citation into its rules. The plan includes, in Appendix VI, the coordination of activities involved with the emergency provision of temporary shelters.⁷

The Division currently manages a program for surveying existing public and private, with written owner agreement, buildings to identify which are appropriately designed and located to serve as shelters.⁸ Public facilities, including schools, postsecondary education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state or local governments, but excluding hospitals or nursing homes, which are suitable for use as public hurricane evacuation shelters must be made available at the request of the local emergency management agencies.⁹

Proposed situation:

The bill provides that the DMS must compile a list of unoccupied buildings owned by the state which are available for use as emergency shelters during an emergency or other catastrophic event. The list must be organized by county and municipality and must be updated by May 31 of each year. The bill defines emergency shelters as "suitable" for use as an emergency shelter if they meet the standards set by the American Red Cross. It defines "unoccupied" as meaning "vacant due to suspended operation or nonuse".

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Requires the Department of Management Services to maintain a list of unoccupied buildings to be used as emergency shelters during storms or other catastrophic events.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues: None

2. Expenditures: The responsibility of generating and maintaining a list of unoccupied buildings in this state may result in additional staff costs and expanded job duties. The additional cost to DMS to implement this program is unknown.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues: None

2. Expenditures: None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR: None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS: None

⁷ Rule 9G-2.002, F.A.C.

⁸ Section 252.385(2), F.S.

⁹ Section 252.385(4)(a), F.S.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because this bill does not appear to: require the counties or cities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenue in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other: None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On March 22, 2006 the Domestic Security committee adopted the amendment that requires the DMS to compile a list and update it annually of unoccupied buildings owned by the state which are suitable for use as emergency shelters. The amendment defines emergency shelters as "suitable" for use as an emergency shelter, if they meet the standards set by the American Red Cross. It defines "unoccupied" as meaning "vacant due to suspended operation or nonuse." The bill was reported favorably with committee substitute.